(b) No, Sir.

(c) GREF personnel have been granted Army scale of ration after 42 years of inception for the Organization *i.e.* from 29th January, 2003 which is further subject to the following conditions:.

(i) When they are engaged on the work alongside the Army.

(ii) Or ahead of the Army on International Border.

(iii) Or the line of actual control.

(iv) Or under operational control of the Army.

(v) Or on Counter Insurgency and anti insurgency operation alongside the Army in Border areas and disturbed areas.

BRO personnel who do not fulfil the above conditions, are authorized GREF scale of ration which is comparatively less.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Slow pace of modernization of special forces

2342. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is concerned over the slow pace of modernization of the elite special forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the slow pace is bound to affect the long term projects of the special forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A plan for modernization of Special Forces for equipping them with modern weapons and equipment is already underway. The long term projects are not affected and the required procurement as part of long term modernization plan will continue to progress as per the extant Defence Procurement Procedure.

Joining of private sector by DRDO scientists

†2343. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of the qualified scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation have joined private companies so far after resigning from DRDO;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.